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REMARKS

In response to the Final Office Action mailed July 28, 2006, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration. To further the prosecution of this Application, the Applicant submits the following remarks and has canceled claims. The claims as now presented are believed to be in allowable condition.

Claims 1-4, 6-12, 14-20, 22-26, and 28-32 were pending in this Application. Claims 25, 26, 28, and 31 have been withdrawn from consideration. By this Amendment, claim 9 has been canceled. Accordingly, claims 1-4, 6-8, 10-12, 14-20, 22-26, and 28-32 are now pending in this Application. Claims 1, 9, 17, 25, and 32 are independent claims.

Preliminary Matters

On page 2 of the Office Action, under "Election/Restrictions," the Office Action recites that the "applicant correctly points out that claims 29 and 30 belong with group I, therefore claims 1-4, 6-12, 14-~~21~~, 22-24, 29, 30, and 32 will be examined for prosecution" (emphasis added).

The Applicant would like to point out that there appears to be a typographical error in the listing of the claims in the Election/Restrictions section. Claim 21 had been cancelled in an Amendment submitted to the Patent Office on January 3, 2006. As such, the listing should include claims 1-4, 6-12, 14-~~20~~, 22-24, 29, 30, and 32.

Allowed Claims

Claim 32 has been allowed.

Claim 29 was objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim but was deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicant has rewritten claim 29 to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any

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intervening claims. Namely, the Applicant has cancelled claim 29 and amended claim 1 to include the content of dependent claim 29. Accordingly, claim 1 is now in allowable condition. Additionally, claims 2-4, 6-8, and 30 which depend from claim 1 are also in allowable condition as depending from an allowable base claim.

#### Claim Amendments

Independent claims 9 and 17 have been amended to include the content of objected to claim 29. No new matter has been added by the amendments. Claims 9 and 17 are in allowable condition. Additionally, claims 10-12 and 14-16, which depend from allowable claim 9, and claims 18-20 and 22-24, which depend from allowable claim 17, are also in a condition for allowance as depending from an allowable base claim.

The amendment and cancellation of claims should in no way be construed as an acquiescence to any of the rejections in the Office Action and was done solely to expedite prosecution of the application.

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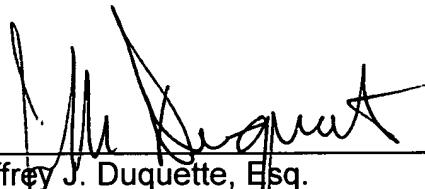
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, this Application should be in condition for allowance. A Notice to this affect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this Response, that the Application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the Applicants' Representative at the number below.

The Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time which is required to maintain the pendency of this case. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 50-3661.

If the enclosed papers or fees are considered incomplete, the Patent Office is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned collect at (508) 616-2900, in Westborough, Massachusetts.

Respectfully submitted,



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